

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 DLOS-09 HA-05 MCE-00
IO-13 /097 W
-----121456 181325Z /45

R 171332Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2095
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

S E C R E T MEXICO 13480

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PCAT, XM, MX
SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT

REF: (A) RIO 3604 (NOTAL), (B) MEXICO 12913 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFFS MET AUG 16 WITH AMB SERGIO GONZALEZ GALVEZ (GG), FOREIGN SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM VISIT TO RIO WHERE HE MET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CLAPP AND JONES. DESPITE CONVERSATIONS WITH BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS, GG REPORTED THAT BRAZIL'S ATTENDANCE AT AUG 21 WORKING GROUP SESSION IN MEXICO CITY TO DISCUSS LA CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT STILL APPEARS UNLIKELY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT COMPLETELY GIVEN UP HOPE. ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF OTHER INVITEES, GG SAID THAT PARAGUAY--PROBABLY AS RESULT OF BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE--IS NOW WAVERING. REGARDING CHILE, HE RECONFIRMED HIS HOPE (REFTEL A) THAT SOME FORMULA COULD
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BE WORKED OUT SO THAT IT COULD PARTICIPATE BUT VOLUNTEERED NO ADDITIONAL IDEAS AS TO HOW THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

2. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO HIS TRIP, GG SAID, WAS ARGENTINE DECISION TO ATTEND MEXICO CITY MEETING. GG SAID THIS WAS ARRANGED INITIALLY THROUGH

HIS CONTACTS WITH ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE TO INTERAMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE WHO PUT HIM IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH ARGENTINE FONMIN AND WAS THEN SUBSEQUENTLY FIRMED UP DURING GG'S BRIEF RETURN STOP IN BUENOS AIRES. GONZALEZ GALVEZ OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION AS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD OF ARGENTINE ACCEPTANCE AND HAD NOT AS YET INFORMED VENEZUELA. GG DID NOT COMMENT ON EXPECTED VISIT OF VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATIVE NAVA.

3. ON LAST LEG OF RETURN TRIP GG ALSO STOPPED BRIEFLY IN LIMA, APPARENTLY TO FIRM UP PERUVIAN ATTENDANCE. FINALLY, GG INFORMED EMBOFFS THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN AUG 21 MEETING, BUT AS YET GOM HAS NOT RECEIVED RESPONSES FROM OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WHICH GOM BEGAN INVITING ON AUG 8.

4. GG REITERATED MEXICO'S INTENTION (REF A) TO CONTINUE ITS LONGSTANDING EFFORT TO PROHIBIT USE OF WEAPONS SUCH AS NAPALM, FRAGMENTARY BOMBS, HIGH-VELOCITY BULLETS, AT FORTHCOMING GENEVA MEETING AND TO PROHIBIT TRANSFER OF THESE AND ADVANCED, SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY, EMPHASIZING THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ARMS LIMITATION NOT APPLY ONLY TO "DISARMED NATIONS." AS HE INDICATED TO CLAPP AND JONES, GG FORESEES POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH USG POSITION ON THIS
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QUESTION BUT HE TOOK FIRM POSITION WITH EMBOFFS THAT MEXICO BELIEVES REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT CANNOT BE DIVORCED AND/OR ISOLATED FROM BROADER WORLD-WIDE DISARMAMENT CONSIDERATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, GG EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT AMBASSADOR ALDRICH WOULD ONLY BE ATTENDING GENEVA MEETING FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS AND THAT USDEL WOULD NOT INCLUDE JONES OR CLAPP, WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH ATTITUDES OF MEXICO AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING EMBOFFS AGREED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH GG ON HIS OVERALL ARMS RESTRAINT EFFORT. MCANINCH

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